

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 17843 091919Z
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TAGS: ENRG, ECON, UR
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA CALLS FOR ECONOMIZING ON FUEL AND POWER

REF: MOSCOW 17064

SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL CALLS FOR ECONOMIZING ON FUEL AND POWER, LINKS THIS NEED TO AN EXPANDING NATIONAL ECONOMY (CONVEYING SOME CONCERN TO MAINTAIN AN APPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONSUMPTION AND RESERVES), AND POINTS THE FINGER AT DELINQUENT MINISTRIES. LOWER TEMPERATURES IN A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS IN MOSCOW SUGGEST THAT ITS REGIONAL HEATING STATIONS MAY HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN A BIT TO SAVE FUEL. END SUMMARY. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. IZVESTIYA'S DECEMBER 2 EDITORIAL ON SAVING FUEL DURING THE WINTER SEASON ASSERTS THAT THE NEED ARISES FROM THE INCREASING SCALE OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND THE NECESSITY TO CONSERVE ENERGY RESERVES. NOTING THAT DEMAND INCREASES ESPECIALLY IN THE WINTER, IT CALLS FOR A STRICT ECONOMY BY ORGANIZATIONS AT ALL
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 17843 091919Z

LEVELS. IT PRAISES THE PRACTICE OF A MOSCOW AUTO PLANT WHICH TURNS OFF SOME ELECTRIC FURNANCES AND HEATERS DURING PEAK HOURS AND SAYS ALMOST EVERY COLLECTIVE HAS A SIMILAR POTENTIAL.

2. THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT THE MINISTRIES OF POWER, FOOD AND MACHINE TOOL BUILDING CONTINUE TO BE SLOW IN

DISSEMINATING "PROGRESSIVE EXPERIENCES" AMONG THEIR PLANTS, THAT SOME ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS STILL EXCEED THE NORMS FOR FUEL PER KWH, AND THAT THERE ARE GREAT FUEL-ENERGY LOSSES IN SOME PLANTS OF THE MINISTRIES OF FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALLURGY AND TIMBER AND WOOD-PROCESSING.

3. "ZEALOUS ECONOMY" MUST TAKE FIRST PLACE, ESPECIALLY IN THE SUPPLY OF HEAT AND POWER TO CONSUMERS. THIS STRIVING TO ECONOMIZE IS NOT A CAMPAIGN (I.E. A SHORT-LIVED EFFORT); RATHER, IT MUST BE PRACTICED EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, BY EVERYONE EVERYWHERE.

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4. COMMENT. THE IZVESTIYA EDITORIAL IS MORE SPECIFIC THAN PRAVDA'S OF NOVEMBER 21 (REFTEL) IN THAT IT IN EFFECT CRITICIZES SEVERAL MINISTRIES BY NAME. IT CALLS FOR PUTTING ECONOMIZING IN FIRST PLACE, AND SEEMS TO US TO CONVEY SOME CONCERN ABOUT MAINTAINING AN ECONOMICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONSUMPTION AND ENERGY RESERVES.

5. THE AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD RECENTLY THAT MOSCOW'S CENTRAL HEATING HAS BEEN LOWERED SEVERAL DEGREES.

6. ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY UNWILLING TO RAISE THE PRICE TO THE CONSUMER OF HOUSEHOLD FUELS (REFTEL), SOVIET AUTHORITIES
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 17843 091919Z

MAY BE TRYING TO ECONOMIZE ON FUEL BY DIRECTING A LOWERING OF THE LEVEL OF HEAT PROVIDED BY DISTRICT HEATING SYSTEMS -- A RESPONSE MORE IN LINE WITH THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A "COMMAND" ECONOMY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO VERIFY THIS ON A POLICY LEVEL.
TOON

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